



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE ED JUTILA**  
37<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 4046  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591  
HOME: (860) 739-7730  
CAPITOL: (800) 842-8267  
E-MAIL: Ed.Jutila@cga.ct.gov

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

VICE CHAIRMAN  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

MEMBER  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**General Law Committee Public Hearing**  
**Thursday, February 25, 2010**

**Testimony of State Representative Ed Jutila**  
**in Support of SB 186 An Act Concerning Automatic**  
**External Defibrillators in Health Clubs**

Senator Colapietro, Representative Shapiro, Members of the General Law Committee, for the record my name is Ed Jutila State Representative for the 37<sup>th</sup> District, which includes the towns of East Lyme and Salem. I am here today in support of SB 186 An Act Concerning Automatic External Defibrillators in Health Clubs. First let me thank the committee for raising this bill and providing us the opportunity to speak here today.

Back in 2007, when I served on the committee I had introduced similar legislation at the behest of a constituent of mine, Christopher Barrett of Niantic who has been a strong advocate. Mr. Barrett serves on the Board of Directors of his local health club, which obtained an AED without any requirement to do so.

Since then we have come a long way in raising awareness and passing legislation to show just how important the use of defibrillators can be when it comes to saving lives. Last year we were able to pass Public Act 09-94, which helps increase the availability of AEDs in schools and also personnel trained to use them. We also passed PA-09-59, which extends immunity to those who in good faith use an AED in an attempt to save a life. I believe that extending the availability of AEDs in health clubs this year would be a logical next step, particularly given the elevated risk when individuals exercise at high levels.

Studies have repeatedly shown the importance immediate defibrillation can have in improving survival rates of victims of cardiac arrest. Survival rates have been known to increase by 50% or more. The immediate availability of an AED is even more crucial in places such as health clubs where elevated heart rates and extra stress on the heart are known to occur.

I would urge the Committee to act favorably on this important legislation. Again thank you for this opportunity to testify and I would be happy to answer any questions members of the committee may have.